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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
GIORGIO GANDOLFI, ET AL. : EXAMINER: FLANIGAN, A.  
SERIAL NO: 10/512,074 :  
FILED: JULY 5, 2005 : GROUP ART UNIT: 3744  
FOR: TUBE BUNDLE APPARATUS FOR :  
PROCESSING CORROSIVE FLUIDS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated June 25, 2008, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, listed in the Restriction Requirement as readable on Claims 42-61, for further prosecution in the present application. Applicants list Claims 42-61 as readable thereon.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement for the following reasons.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverses the outstanding Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> MPEP § 803 states: If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Additionally, the four groups identified in the Restriction Requirement recite different aspects of a single inventive concept including the presence of a particular anticorrosive lining, comprising three metallic layers. The Restriction Requirement asserts that a combination of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,071,083 and 5,874,178 disqualifies the above-noted feature as a special technical feature, but does not set forth any reason why a person of ordinary skill in the art would combine U.S. 4,071,083 with U.S 5,874,178 so as to include the above-noted three metallic layers. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement has not shown that the claims in Groups I-IV lack a special technical feature as required. Therefore, an action on all of Claims 42-82 is earnestly solicited.

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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